



Dear Onekama Friends,

As I write this, I am looking at our dwindling, melting snow, and hope that when you are reading this, you are seeing the promise of a new season...grass greening, daffodils and tulips blooming, the sun shining, and weather warming.

It has only been a few months since Roz passed the gavel to me, both literally and figuratively, but more than enough time to gain an appreciation for the dedicated and dynamic team of officers, committee chairs, and volunteers of the Portage Lake Association.

As anyone who knows Roz would expect, the transition has been seamless, and she continues to be an active member of the Board of Directors.

Last year, she initiated a Strategic Planning process for the PLA. We chose a consultant, P. Laine Blasch, developed and sent surveys via email to all our PLA members, and have since held two in-person, and one video conference strategic planning sessions. This process has been valuable to our organization. The input from the survey responses has confirmed some of our beliefs, while also triggering ideas as we look to the future. The discussions that have evolved with Laine leading us through exercises have provoked new thoughts of what PLA provides and what its role is in our community, and as importantly, what services it can provide over the next 3-5 years. We are still in the middle of this process and look forward to sharing more with you in the months to come.

Until then, start planning ahead for a fabulous summer season in Onekama filled with activities and events whether you live, play, or stay in Onekama, brought to you through the efforts of the many volunteers of the Portage Lake Association.

Happy Spring,

Cyndy Wangbichler
President, Portage Lake Association

**Have any great ideas or articles for the Newsletter? Suggestions or comments?
Ideas for a Person we should know?
Contact the editor, Jean Capper via email at jmcmom@aol.com**

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE PLA NEWSLETTER:

Articles must be in Microsoft Word format. Name the file something that is readily understandable e.g., petunias 0320. Photos must be jpg format. Name them the same as the file they are associated with (petunias 0320_1.jpg, petunias 0320_2.jpg. Action photos, close ups are preferable to still photos of groups. The next newsletter deadline will be April 10, 2025 for the July 2025 issue.

Onekama Branch Library Library Location

5283 Main Street
Onekama, Michigan 49675



(231) 889-4041 • (231) 889-5420

Library Hours

10:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Monday
12:30 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday
10:30 AM - 5:00 PM Thursday
10:30 AM - 5:00 PM Friday

*Please call for Curbside Hours

Branch Manager
Heather

Situated at the heart of the Village of Onekama, the library serves as a vital hub for residents and visitors eager to explore the world of literature and knowledge. Onekama, with its rich history dating back to the establishment of the settlement of Portage in 1845, has evolved into a community defined by its picturesque location on the northeast shore of Portage Lake.

The village, surrounded by Onekama Township, derives its name from Ona-ga-maa, an Anishinaabe word meaning “singing water.” The history of Onekama is marked by the transformative event of 1871 when residents, frustrated with the practices of the Portage Sawmill, dug a channel through the narrow isthmus, connecting Portage Lake to Lake Michigan and reshaping the landscape.

Located in a village that has witnessed the construction of its first public buildings in 1880 and the establishment of vital infrastructure like schools and railroads, the library continues to play a crucial role in connecting generations to the vast world of knowledge.



FUNDRAISER RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH

4:00PM - 6:00PM

WINE & CHEESE

LOCAL ART AND GIFT BASKETS DONATED BY
OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE FOR SALE.
ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP SUPPORT OUR
FAVORITE LOCAL FREE PAPER.



Freshwater Reporter Fundraiser

A fundraiser for the Freshwater Reporter will be held at the Patina Gallery 4850 Main Street on Friday, May 30th from 4:00-6:00pm. Local art and gift baskets will be for sale with all proceeds going to help the Freshwater Reporter “keep the press rolling” for another year. Refreshments will be served. If you can’t make the May 30th event, the items will remain in the Gallery and available for purchase thru June 30th.

The paper was founded in 2019 by Manistee residents Pat Stinson and Mark Videan. The free publication supports local businesses, organizations, art, music, events and MORE. The paper is delivered to more than 150 locations throughout Mason and Manistee County. The paper is funded solely by advertising, subscriptions and donations.

For information on donating an item or to advertise please contact Pat Stinson, 231-835-0867, send an email to: editor@freshwater-reporter.com

Onekama Guild Thrift Shop

Some great news I want to share with you about our Thrift Shop. While construction on the Thrift Shop continues, we have garnered great support.

First, it is my pleasure to announce that our builder, Mathieu Builders, has made a considerable donation of materials and labor to ensure that our shop will get the best remodel. I am at a loss for words of what this means to us. We had our funds in hand to meet the original proposal from them, however, once work began it became obvious that in order to complete the work to their standards, much more would need to be done. It was Bret Mathieu who stepped up and made the more than generous donation and commitment to our Guild.

Next, we were the recipients of \$2,000 from the Portage Lake Association. We are grateful to them for their donation. In addition, there are three other anonymous donors who collectively are donating over \$3,000—one of these donors has committed to donate

more should there be additional expenditures.

Right now, we have insulation which we never had. The new ceiling is drywalled and ready for paint. All new electric wiring has been installed to accommodate new and improved lighting throughout the store. Soon we will be able to “move back in”, organize and set up for opening in May.

Many folks have been wondering when they can drop off their donations of clothes and housewares—we hope to be ready to support “donation days” beginning in late April. So, please hang on to your items just a bit longer. We will be in need of your clean and gently used items, especially linens, towels, shoes, handbags and more! If you haven’t begun, now is a good time to sort through your closets! Remember, “reuse, recycle and reimagine!” That’s what “thrifting” is all about.

We are so proud of the support from our builders, our Village/Township residents and their generosity. Our Thrift Shop is going to be a shining example of what can be achieved from such a small but powerful group of volunteers. I know that each one of our volunteers take pride in what we will have accomplished and have yet to accomplish this coming year, to enable us to give back to the charitable organizations we are so proud to support!

We wish to thank our community for supporting the Guild and our mission. We look forward to our Grand Opening, May 22, 2025.

Respectfully,
Patty Suchocki
Store Manager



The PLA is on Instagram

Check it out by searching @portage_lake_association on Instagram. The posts are fun and informative.



News from Onekama Schools

Onekama Schools is doing great things for students. Let's talk about them. This spring (April 21st - April 25th) we are planning a week long Career Exploration Week. We have invited community members to spend 3 hours with our students, giving students a chance to learn about careers that align with their interests and skills so they can start to narrow down what careers to pursue. Students will gain invaluable advice and connect with professionals. On that Friday, April 25th, we will host a Summer Job Expo. Again, students will have an opportunity to learn about local summer jobs and career opportunities. This week is geared toward our high school students.

Next, we are offering Mondays in May (May 5, May 12th, May 19th). These Mondays are geared toward our middle school student body to explore career opportunities. This will take place during the first hour of the day.



Finally, we have started a Portager Pantry. We have been working tirelessly on getting donations and supplies to make Personal Care Products available to all our students. We acknowledge that sometimes we need a new toothbrush. Did you know that dentists recommend changing your brush every 3 months?? We are planning to stock the Portager Pantry with items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoos, and the list goes on. In addition, we would then add

items like shoes, coats, shirts, pants, and boots. We have created a wish list through Amazon: [.amazon](https://www.amazon.com). Items can also be purchased locally and gift cards to Meijer are welcome.

As always, if you would like more information on ways you can help, please contact Mary Bergren at mbergren@onekamaschools.org. Mary Bergren and Ashley Marquard are coordinating donations and contributions for the Portager Pantry.

St. Joseph Community Food Pantry

St. Joseph Parish Fellowship Hall
(Entrance located behind Church)

8380 Fifth St, P.O. Box #150

Onekama, MI 49675

Contact: Leslie Osborn, 231.864.2509

Email: foodpantry_2014@yahoo.com

There are always people in need of food, drink, clothes and kindness. On average, we serve about 100 people every month. We spend about \$1,500 a month for food and drink. Donations from parishioners, other churches, civic organizations, individuals and others fund our ministry.

Parishioners are only a portion of the 20-25 regular volunteers, many of whom have been helping for more than 10 years, and some have volunteered month after month for over 25 years. The purpose of the food pantry is to respond to families and individuals who are residents of Manistee County, are low income and in need of food assistance

The St. Joseph Community Food Pantry, Onekama, is open the 4th Friday of each month, from 10:00 - 11:15 AM, and will be open regardless of the weather conditions.

PETUNIAS ARE ON VACATION

SEE YOU IN 2026!

Contact maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net for more information





Portage Lake Garden Club

The Portage Lake Garden Club offers two awards each year. The Civic Beautification Award recognizes an Onekama business or organization for its efforts to enhance the community through landscaping. The Harvest Garden Award recognizes individual citizens with outstanding floral and/or food gardens. Community members are welcome to nominate themselves or someone else. There is no formal nomination process. Simply send an email to info@portagelakegardenclub.org. “Image courtesy of Save the Dunes.”

LAKE & LATTE

Great news! Yellow Dog Café is now Lakes & Latte. If you’ve ever been to the Yellow Dog Cafe, you might already know one of Lake & Latte’s team members. Ashley Bradford’s son Carson, worked for Bonnie last year and has been working behind the scenes to help get the cafe ready. This year he is stepping up to teach us how to make all your favorite drinks.

We’re so excited to welcome you soon—stop by, say hi, and let Carson show off his barista skills!



RECYCLING

Wonder if something is recyclable? Check this link for a helpful guide:

Manistee Recycling PA69 Recycling Program

Public Act 69 allows Michigan Counties and local units of government to enter into an agreement to fund a residential recycling program. Nine of Manistee County’s communities, including Onekama Township/Village use Public Act 69 to fund their local recycling programs and are collectively known as the PA69 Recycling Program. The recycling sites located in six communities are paid for and are for use by residents of the PA69 Recycling Program communities only. View the PA69 Recycling Guidelines to see what is recyclable in these communities.

All Manistee County residents have access to the recycling drop-off site located at the Republic Services Manistee County Landfill at 3890 Camp Road, Manistee.

PLEASE RECYCLE responsibly! All boxes need to be broken down before going in the truck. If the truck is full or not there, please DO NOT leave boxes on the ground to blow away.

Have Questions? Call the Toll-free Recycling Hotline - 855-2Go-Zero (855-246-9376).

Wait for 7 Days of Consecutive 50° F Weather Before Cleaning Up Your Garden this Spring

The majority of pollinators do not migrate out of NWI in the winter, they spend their entire lives in our region

Most pollinators rely on warming temperature to tell them it's time to emerge from their winter hiding place

After 7 days of 50+ temps, most pollinators will have received the message to emerge, and you can safely remove last season's leaves, plants, and sticks

Where Do Pollinators Spend the Winter?



Onekama Township Parks and Recreation

April 1 begins the Parks and Recreation Committee's new year and there is so much to look forward to! This summer expect to have a great line up of programming and some parks improvements.

Be sure to visit the Parks and Recreation website:
www.onekamatwp.org/parks-recreation-committee

- get the latest parks news
- find details about the events
- find all Trails Project information

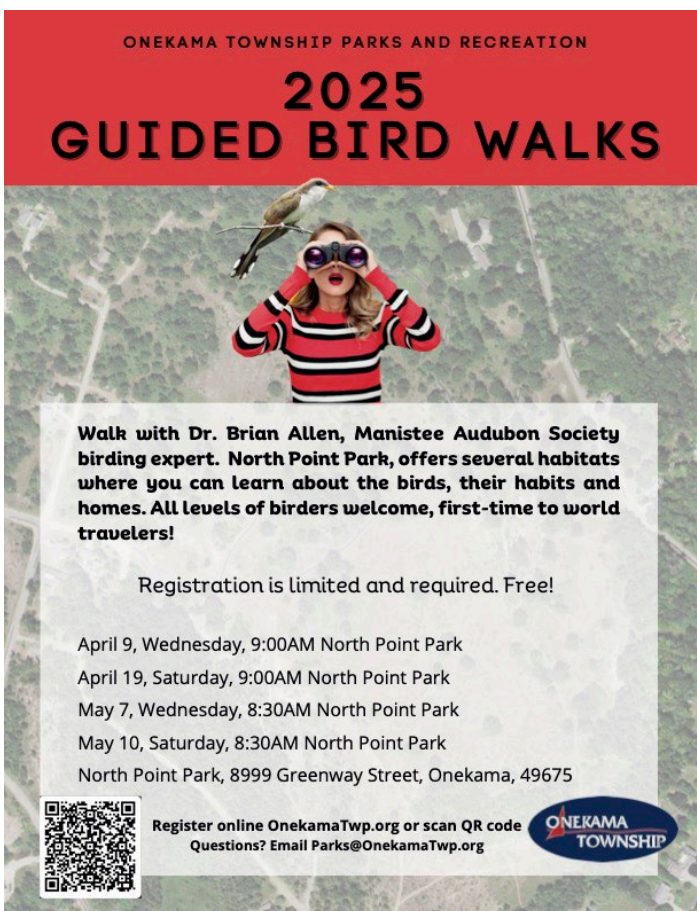
Don't find what you need?

Email Parks@OnekamaTwp.org or leave a phone message at (231)443-9101

Your Parks and Recreation department is excited to serve you! As a volunteer committee, we rely on volunteers and donations for most of our events - please consider sharing your time, talents or making a donation. You are needed.

Welcome to the Parks Committee:

Matt Keifer, our recently elected Township Trustee,



ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION


2025 GUIDED BIRD WALKS

Walk with Dr. Brian Allen, Manistee Audubon Society birding expert. North Point Park, offers several habitats where you can learn about the birds, their habits and homes. All levels of birders welcome, first-time to world travelers!

Registration is limited and required. Free!

April 9, Wednesday, 9:00AM North Point Park
April 19, Saturday, 9:00AM North Point Park
May 7, Wednesday, 8:30AM North Point Park
May 10, Saturday, 8:30AM North Point Park
North Point Park, 8999 Greenway Street, Onekama, 49675

Register online OnekamaTwp.org or scan QR code
Questions? Email Parks@OnekamaTwp.org



has joined the Parks and Recreation Committee. He is experienced in leading outdoor education, is an outdoorsman, and Onekama native.

Chelsea Willis, from the Village of Onekama will bring her creative thinking, kindness and hands-on dedication to the committee.

Mickey Finnan, Trustee of the Village of Onekama will bring many years of educational and local experience as the Village representative on the Township Parks Committee.

Our sincere thanks to those retiring from the Parks Committee:

- Paul Mueller's thoughtful guidance and hands-on leadership has been instrumental.

- Al Taylor's drive to improve both the parklands and the recreational programming is well known and greatly appreciated.

- John Wemlinger's ability to bring progress in our Village and Township parks and the community as a whole has made a real impact.

Welcome back for 2025 to your Onekama Township employees: Jean Capper, as Events Coordinator and Maria Davidson as Parks Maintenance Employee. They work tirelessly to keep our events and our parks in great shape for you.

See you out in the parks. It is always time to get outside because **Onekama parks are for everyone!**

Sincerely,
Michelle Ervin, Programming Director
Onekama Township Parks and Recreation

From Jean Capper, Events Coordinator:

We plan on having a great summer. Please join us for the Parks clean up-May 10 from 10-1. If you are interested in helping, please send me an email jcapper@onekamatwp.org. There will be three sites-Northpoint Park, Glen Park and Langland Park. The more the merrier.

We will also be hosting Yoga on the Beach in July

on Mondays and Fridays-times to be determined. Rockhounding with Leann Burger will be back as well as Bird Walks with Dr Allen.

There will be some pop up events at Langland-kite flying, sand castle making and other fun activities. The events calendar is under construction as we speak-visit Parks and Recs to see the latest updates and for sign ups.



TREE SCHOOL

In February, the sophomore class had the incredible opportunity to visit the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive (AATA). The weather was on our side, as the snow graciously paused, allowing us to embark on our journey safely. This marks the third consecutive year that our sophomore students have had the privilege of exploring the wonders of AATA.

During the visit, students delved into the fascinating world of champion trees and various propagation

techniques. They engaged in a hands-on activity, where they learned the intricate process of cloning trees. This immersive experience not only broadened their understanding of environmental conservation but also ignited a passion for preserving our planet's ancient giants.

Looking ahead, the sophomore class is excited to continue their environmental stewardship. In May, they will visit Northpoint Park to participate in the planting of cedar trees, further contributing to the local ecosystem.

For more information on the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive and their mission, please visit their website: www.ancienttreearchive.org



SPONSORED BY:  MANISTEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  MANISTEE COUNTY LIBRARY



SEED SWAP

SAT. APRIL 12
11 AM - 1 PM

A free, all-ages event at Manistee Main Library
95 Maple Street in Manistee

Free seeds - Prize drawing - Info tables

Manistee Conservation District

Save the date and plan to join us on Saturday, April 12 for the 3rd annual community seed swap! Bring leftover or saved seeds from your gardens to share and swap with other growers in our community. Share knowledge and tips with others and leave with inspiration for your 2025 gardens. All levels of gardening experience are welcome.

A number of other organizations will have information tables set up at the event including the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, and Going to Seed. Chrissy with the Manistee Library will also have kids activities!

Seeds are not a requirement to attend. There will be free seeds to take home even if you don't have any to bring. We hope to see you there!

NEAR & FARR FRIENDS

February - May Events 2025

- April 4 Game Day - Play Nine
- April 11 Aimee Brumleve- an expert dog trainer with advice for owners
- April 18 Dr. Brian Allen
types of birds to look for this time of the year
- May 2 Game Day - Dominos and Qwirkle
- May 9 Internet Scams and how to recognize them
- May 16 Josh Shields - what trees, shrubs to plant and care for

All Near & Farr events are held at Onekama Township Hall, Friday at 10am-noon. All are welcome. Donations appreciated.




ONEKAMA DAYS

SAT. AUG 2

CAR SHOW

Won't happen without a leader

Call 614-325-1717 for more info

Onekama Lions Club

The Onekama Lions Club has had another busy year!

*We had our popular Quarter Paddle Auction in the spring that has a great attendance and is the biggest fundraiser for the Onekama Lions Club. We hold this event every other year so be ready for 2026! If you would like to donate any items, please get a hold of Kathleen Bowers at (231) 690-5790.

*We had our food trailer at Ron Ringel Auctions throughout the year.

*We had a rummage/craft sale at the Fair Pavilion.

*We had our food trailer at the Fall Festival.

*Our Kid Sight Trailer can be seen at many sites providing eyesight screening.

*We park cars during the Manistee County Fair.

*We hosted Onekama Days which included a steak fry, cornhole tournaments, two breakfasts and the parade.

*We co-hosted the first annual Halloween night parade and trunk or treat and the Onekama Lions Club handed out free: the famous Trinity Lutheran Church doughnuts, cider, coffee, hot chocolate and lots of candy! It was a fun event and hoping it will be bigger and better in 2025!

*We donated funds to the Giving Tree at Onekama School.

*We adopted Nancy's House and provided Christmas gifts for the residents.

*We went caroling, provided cookies and donated gifts for the Manistee County Medical Care Facility residents at Christmas.

*We teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to help a person in need in the community.

*We gave out four \$1,000 high school scholarships to graduating Onekama School seniors that is renewable every year for four years.

*We donate every year to the Leader Dogs for the Blind, Bear Lake Camp, Eversight, All State Band, Kidsight, Paws for a Cause, Lions Club International Foundation and Lions of Michigan Foundation.

This list is definitely not all-inclusive of all the things that the Onekama Lions Club does as there are lots of other donations given and projects worked on. The Lions Club works hard all year so we can give back to our community whenever there is a need.



Our cornhole is back for 2025 and is held every Friday night January through March. Come join us for cod baskets, chicken tender baskets, burgers, brats, hot dogs and much more. Drinks are also available for purchase. Doors open at 5:00 and cornhole begins at 6:30! It is a great way to get out and socialize. This is a great fundraiser for the Onekama Lions and has been very well attended and best of all, everyone has a great time!

If you are interested in reserving the pavilion for a graduation party or wedding, etc., please contact David Bowers at (231) 690-6918.

It takes many volunteers hours to do what the Onekama Lions Club provides to our community. If you love giving back to your community and are interested in becoming an Onekama Lions Club member, please reach out to any Onekama Lions Club member or call (231) 690-5790. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the summer months and on the 3rd Friday at 4:30 p.m. during the winter months at the Onekama Lions Club located at the Manistee County Fairgrounds. We would love to have you!! We serve!

A promotional poster for the Onekama Fall Festival. The background is orange with diagonal stripes. The text is centered and reads: 'HOLD THE DATE FOR ONEKAMA FALL FESTIVAL'. Below the text is an illustration of a large orange pumpkin with two yellow sunflowers and stalks of wheat. Below the illustration, it says 'FAMILY FUN, FOOD, GAMES, HAYRIDES AND MUCH MORE!'. The date and time are 'SATURDAY OCT 4, 2025 FROM 10 AM to 3 PM'. At the bottom, it says 'PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION ONEKAMA.INFO' and includes a logo for 'WELCOME TO ONEKAMA PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION'.



Published on *Onekama, MI* (<http://www.onekamatwp.org>)

BOARD MEMBERS: Supervisor, David Meister; Clerk, Jennifer Smeltzer; Treasurer, Edward Bradford; Trustees, Matt Kieffer and Cyndy Wangbichler

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Manistee County Planning Department, M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

BURNING PERMITS: Burning permits issued by website: www.michigan.gov/burn_permit. Township residents: you are (Twp. 23 N. and Range 16 W) and your section number.

BURN BANS: Burn bans can be found at dnr.state.mi.us.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Closed on the following recognized holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Christmas Eve through New Year's Day.

TOWNSHIP OFFICE PHONE:
(231) 889-3308; FAX: 889-5587

FIRE DEPARTMENT: (231) 889-7014

Update on Village Park Pavilion Renovation

The project is on schedule. The materials for the new pavilion are set to arrive in the first week of April, and renovation work will commence shortly thereafter. The new structure, designed to complement the event stage, will be ready for use by Memorial Day. Therefore, the park will experience construction phases throughout April and May. We look forward to everyone enjoying the enhanced facilities for picnics, birthdays, and other celebrations.

Updates from the Township

Property taxes can be made online. This link will get you to the online portal:
www.onekamatwp.org/home/news/township-now-accepting-online-property-tax-payments

Jennifer Smeltzer has been appointed Clerk, effective 3/3/25.

A new Lake Manager, Kieser & Assoc. LLC has been appointed.

Mr. Devoe has stated he will complete his fence by Spring. The terms of the agreement will be enforced if it is not done by June.

Mr. Hanford, owner of a parcel on Portage Point Drive has been notified by the Township and EGLE to cease and desist. A request is being made for him to restore Township property and reimburse for the trees that were cut down.

For more information, visit <https://www.onekamatwp.org/home/pages/government-menu>

Hello Summer Cocktail Party!

Friday, June 6th
5:00pm - 8:00pm
Portage Point Inn

Join the **Portage Lake Association** and celebrate the start of another season in beautiful Onekama!

\$35 buffet, cash bar, silent auction,
& music provided by DJ Val

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

2025 PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION SPONSORSHIP

Mail/email/text this form

NAME _____

Name to be used in publicity (if different from above) _____

CONTACT NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

- \$1500 + Event Sponsor banner at event and recognition on all publicity
Business card-size ad in PLA newsletter four times per year
Four shout-outs on PLA's popular social media sites
Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info & PLA newsletters; FB mentions
- \$1000 + Event Sponsor with recognition on all publicity
Business card-size ad in one PLA newsletter
Four shout-outs on PLA's popular social media sites
Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info & PLA newsletters; FB mentions
- \$500 + Event Sponsor with recognition on all publicity
Two shout-outs on PLA's popular social media sites
Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info & PLA newsletters; FB mentions
- \$100 + Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info, Newsletter & FB mentions
- \$45 + Sponsor Listing with logo on Onekama.info, FB mentions

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL \$ _____

Respond by 6/1/2025, but earlier is better to get full publicity!

Check payable to PLA

Mail to PO Box 493, Onekama MI 49675 or contact us for Venmo/Paypal

Businesses: Email business info, logo, website & Facebook links to
rozjaf64@gmail.com

\$500 and above sponsors: Circle your event choice

Main Street Petunias June Cocktail Party Monday Concerts in the Park
Onekama Days 'Pig Out' Dinner for Onekama School Onekama Days Beer Tasting
Onekama Days Fireworks Fall Festival Near & Farr Friends Christmas
in Onekama Artisan Market Celebration of Lights (tree & Main St lights)

Anything else we should know? _____

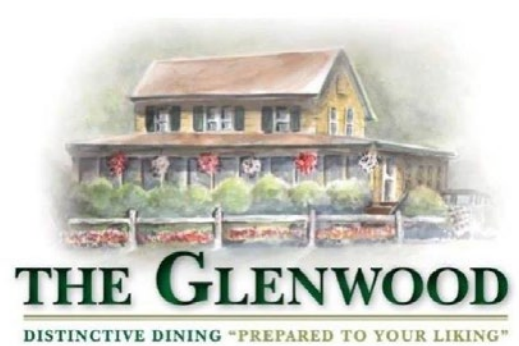
Able to supply auction or other donation items? _____

Donations & sponsorships may not be tax deductible.

For more information: Roz Jaffe rozjaf64@gmail.com 231-655-3006

2/28/2025

**The Portage Lake Association
appreciates our business sponsors.
Thank You!**



Would you like to join?
Farmers Market
CELEBRATING 16
YEARS!

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS
May 23 - August 29

Noon - 4pm
Same location
4850 Main Street
(parking lot)

Join local
farm families Sieverts & Browns
(LICENSED & INSPECTED)



Contact Carla Sievert for
more information
231-233-3567



Village Information

Village Council meets on the Third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm. at the Farr Center.

Village Planning Commission meets on the Second Tuesday of the month, 6 pm. at the Farr Center.

Farr Center Hall rental: please make arrangements with the clerk @ (231) 889-3171 or email: clerk@villageofonekama.org.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Wayne Miller
president@villageofonekama.org

CLERK

Ruth Hudson
clerk@villageofonekama.org

TREASURER

Nikki Jach
treasurer@villageofonekama.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

David Jarvi
djarvi@manisteecountymi.gov
231-398-3527

Manistee County Planning Department
planning@manisteecountymi.gov

TRUSTEES

Roger Burger
Sarah Fauble
Mickey Finan
Susan Halloran
Rod Hudson

FIRE CHIEF

Rob Johnson
(231) 889-4240

Notes From The Village

Village Brush Pickup info-limited to those who live within the village can be found at:

www.onekama.info/_files/ugd/111d5a_42f5523ea2104e59a7cd680b6a18688c.pdf

Information about the Master Plan can be found at:

www.onekama.info/_files/ugd/111d5a_b51acef4f73746f785ec8c1edf891d11.pdf

The feasibility for the Onkama Trail can be found at:
www.onekamatwp.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf7481/f/uploads/onekama_trail_feasibility_study-_013025.pdf

For more information and access to minutes and agendas, visit:

www.onekama.info/village

ONEKAMA VILLAGE OFFICES

Farr Office

5283 Main Street • Onkama, MI 49675
Phone#: (231) 889-3171 / Fax # (231) 889-3423

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9am - 2pm

Petunia Parade

New Look For Large Planters Along The South Side Of Main Street

Local gardener Kris Greve and her team of workers will use a new combination of plants in the 17 large planters along Main Street this year. She and her team will plant (left to right) Begonia ‘Whopper Red’, Lantana Gem yellow topaz, garden sage, red rubrum grasses, and variegated vinca green and white. Pleasanton Valley Greenhouses will supply the plants.



As a reminder, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) plans to resurface M-22 and create ADA compliant sidewalk corners at intersections with Main Street in Onkama this year. The heat and fumes from that project, along with workers trampling the area, has led the Petunia Parade Committee to take a “gap year” from planting petunias this summer. However, we will need to replenish the soil (the last time that was done was 2019), fix the tires on the watering trailer, find another water source, and resolve the algae growth in the tank. The committee may even consider another way to spruce up the Village with flowers hanging plants from shepherd’s hooks, large pots like those on the south side of M-22, or something else. If you have a great idea or want to pitch in with a solution, please let me know at maryjomcelroy@sbcglobal.net. The entire Petunia Parade Committee welcomes your input.

People You Should Know

The Blue Slipper Tavern, a cherished establishment in Onkama, Michigan, has recently undergone a change in ownership. On February 12, 2025, family members Jim Metcalf, Brooke McIsaac, Paul Murray and Ashlee Murray, opened the doors of The Blue Slipper, marking a new chapter for this historic venue.

Brooke McIsaac has called Onkama home for 50 years, even raising her two children; Ellery and Drew McIsaac in Onkama. Jim Metcalf fell in love with Onkama and The Blue Slipper when he fell in love with Brooke in 2022. Their love for the community and The Blue Slipper is what inspired them to take on this opportunity.

Cousins with Brooke McIsaac, Ashlee Murray would spend her childhood summers in Onkama with her grandmother. Fast forward 40 years and Ashlee, along with her husband, Paul Murray and their family have been called back to Onkama to help guide the Slipper into its next chapter.

The Blue Slipper Tavern boasts a rich history dating back to the late 1800s. Originally known as Hansen’s Saloon, it has served as a community gathering spot



for over a century. Notably, a bullet hole from a 1890s shootout remains visible in the bar, adding to its storied past.

Under the new ownership, patrons can expect a blend of the tavern's traditional charm with fresh updates. The menu features a selection of appetizers and good quality meals, including burgers, paninis, salads and soups, complemented by a variety of beverages, including housemade margaritas and mojitos. The Slipper also offers a welcoming atmosphere for the whole family, live music nights, and a back patio for outdoor seating during warmer months. Be sure to stop in and check out what's new at The Blue Slipper.



2025 Portage Lake Association Events

All Events are in Onekama, MI

Near & Farr Friends:

Presentations, Lectures & Games

Onekama Township Hall, 10am

April 4, 11 & 18

May 2, 9 & 16

Hello Summer Community Cocktail Party:

Friday, June 6th

Concerts In The Park:

Village Park, Monday Nights 7pm

June 23 & 30

July 7, 14, 21 & 28

August 4 & 11

Onekama Days:

August 1st - 4th

Volunteer Appreciation:

Village Park

Saturday, October 4th

Christmas In Onekama:

November 22nd

Artisan Market:

Farr Center

Celebration of Lights:

Onekama School

Information subject to change.

MDOT is coming to Onekama!!

ADA-compliant sidewalk corners in Village of Onekama + resurfacing of M-22

PROJECT STARTS APRIL 14 -- about 12 weeks to complete all

Road resurfacing starts at 8 Mile and extends to Norman Rd. in Arcadia

This is not associated with the Trail Project



Check out what's available at the school for the general public:

Track: 5am-8am and also 3pm-8pm (M-F) on Saturday & Sunday hours are 5am-8pm - HOURS ARE YEAR ROUND

Weight Room: 5am-8am and also 3pm-8pm (M-F) on Saturday & Sunday hours are 5am-8pm - HOURS ARE YEAR ROUND

Exercise

Programs: New programs coming in the Fall.

To get an annual membership, complete an application in the superintendent's office (between 8am-3pm). Fee for the fitness center is \$50 for an individual; \$75 for a couple; \$100 for a family. The fee for the walking track is \$15 and this covers the cost of the key card. Exercise programs have separate sign ups.

MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Best Contact Phone _____

Email Address _____



How should we use your donation*: Check one:

- General Fund (best use / most needed project)
- Petunia Planting Concerts in the Park
- Celebration of Lights Onekama Days Fireworks

Other _____

**Excess funds roll over to best use as determined by the PLA Board.*

MEMBERSHIP

- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Renewing Member
- New Member
- I'm interested in Volunteering

*Make checks payable to **Portage Lake Assoc.** and send along with this form to:*

PLA, PO Box 493, Onekama, MI 49675

For More Events and information – check out www.onekama.info

Portage Lake Association
P.O. Box 493
Onekama, MI 49675

